IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1 to 40 and 56 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Please amend Claims 41 to 46, 50 to 55, 58 to 60, 63, 69 to 74, 76 to 79 and 81 as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. to 40. (Cancelled)

41. (Currently Amended) A method of interfacing a plurality of electronic devices that from time to time require maintenance, comprising:

transmitting maintenance status information relating to at least one of a current need for maintenance and a potential future need for maintenance from an ~~the~~ electronic device to a central server, by at least one of direct communication ~~directly or via one or more~~ and communication via at least one intermediary device ~~devices~~; and

in response to the maintenance status information transmitted from the electronic device, transmitting a message[[,]] to an entity relevant to the ~~a particular~~ electronic device, that enables the entity to obtain from the central server the maintenance status information about the electronic device,

wherein the transmission of the maintenance status information is initiated by at least one of the ~~devices and/or the~~ electronic device and the at least one intermediary device ~~devices~~,

said message comprises a hypertext link, and

the central server comprises a web server which is arranged to respond to the hypertext link being activated, to provide the maintenance status information about the electronic device.

42. (Currently Amended) A method of interfacing as claimed in claim 41, wherein the central server comprises a means for analysing the received maintenance status information.

43. (Currently Amended) A method of interfacing as claimed in claim 42, wherein the analysing means determines, depending on the received maintenance status information, if [[a]] said message is to be sent to a relevant entity or not.

44. (Currently Amended) A method of interfacing as claimed in claim 42, wherein the analysing means determines, depending on the received maintenance status information, when [[a]] said message is to be sent to a relevant entity.

45. (Currently Amended) A method of interfacing as claimed in claim 42, wherein the analysing means determines, depending on the received maintenance status information, to which relevant entity the message is to be sent.

46. (Currently Amended) A method of interfacing as claimed in claim 42, wherein the analysing means determines, according to condition data, if [[a]] said message is to be sent to a relevant entity or not.

47. (Original) A method of interfacing as claimed in claim 42, wherein the analysing means generates the message.

48. (Currently Amended) A method of interfacing as claimed in claim 41, wherein the central server has access to a database for storing data, wherein maintenance status information received by the central server is stored in the database.

49. (Original) A method of interfacing as claimed in claim 48, wherein the analysing means has access to data stored in the database.

50. (Currently Amended) A method of interfacing as claimed in claim 41, wherein maintenance status information, sent to the central server, includes a first type of ~~status~~ information indicating the need of maintenance of at least one of the electronic devices and a second type of information about the usage of at least one of the electronic devices.

51. (Currently Amended) A method of interfacing as claimed in claim 41, wherein maintenance status information, sent to the central server, includes information for the identification of the electronic devices.

52. (Currently Amended) A method of interfacing as claimed in claim 41, wherein [[a]] said message contains at least part of the maintenance status information about [[a]] said ~~particular~~ electronic device.

53. (Currently Amended) A method of interfacing as claimed in claim 52, wherein the maintenance status information provided by the central server in ~~the~~ said message to the entity is supplemented with additional relevant data from a database accessible to the central server.

54. (Currently Amended) A method of interfacing as claimed in claim41, wherein the entity has access to at least one service management computer system containing data about ~~at least some of~~ the electronic ~~devices~~ about which the entity is sent ~~the~~ said message ~~messages~~.

55. (Currently Amended) A method of interfacing as claimed in claim 41, wherein at least part of the maintenance status information supplied by the central server is supplemented with additional relevant data from a database accessible to the central server.

56. (Cancelled)

57. (Original) A method of interfacing as claimed in claim 41, wherein data provided by the central server to an entity, or the form of that data, depends on the entity.

58. (Currently Amended) A method of interfacing as claimed in claim 41, comprising transmitting data from [[a]] said entity to the central server.

59. (Currently Amended) A method of interfacing as claimed in claim 58, wherein the data transmitted includes data ~~about~~ the electronic devices serviced by ~~the~~ said entity.

60. (Currently Amended) A method of interfacing as claimed in claim 41, comprising transmitting data from the central server to [[a]] said entity.

61. (Original) A method of interfacing as claimed in claim 60, wherein the data transmitted includes data about the usage of an electronic device.

62. (Original) A method of interfacing as claimed in claim 41, wherein the central sever is arranged to receive data from a service management computer system.

63. (Currently Amended) A method of interfacing as claimed in claim 62, wherein the data received from the service management computer system includes data about the electronic devices serviced by ~~the~~ said service management system.

64. (Original) A method of interfacing as claimed in claim 41, wherein the central server is arranged to transmit data to a service management computer system.

65. (Original) A method of interfacing as claimed in claim 64, wherein the data transferred includes data about the usage of an electronic device.

66. (Original) A method of interfacing as claimed in claim 65, wherein data relating to the usage of an electronic device is transferred directly to at least one service management computer system, without requiring operator intervention.

67. (Original) A method of interfacing as claimed in claim 65 or claim 66, wherein said data about the usage of an electronic device is sent to said service management computer system in batches.

68. (Original) A method of interfacing as claimed in claim 67, wherein said data about the usage of an electronic device is sent to said service management computer system once a threshold condition has been met.

69. (Currently Amended) A method of interfacing as claimed in claim 41, wherein the transmitting of the maintenance status information from the electronic device ~~devices~~ to the central server is by email that is addressed differently for maintenance status information from different electronic devices.

70. (Currently Amended) A method of interfacing as claimed in claim 41, wherein the transmitting of the maintenance status information from the electronic device ~~devices~~ to the central server is by email that is addressed differently for indications that the device requires attention and for information regarding the usage of the device.

71. (Currently Amended) A method of interfacing as claimed in claim 41, wherein maintenance status information for a set of devices is relayed by a common unit to the central server.

72. (Currently Amended) A method of interfacing as claimed in claim 71, wherein the central server is arranged to provide a report of which electronic devices provide maintenance status information to the common unit.

73. (Currently Amended) A method of interfacing as claimed in claim 71, wherein the central server is arranged to provide a single report of maintenance status information about a plurality of the electronic devices that provide maintenance status information to the common unit.

74. (Currently Amended) A method of interfacing as claimed in claim 41, wherein the central server is arranged to provide a history of maintenance status information about a ~~particular~~ electronic device.

75. (Original) A method of interfacing as claimed in claim 41, wherein the central server is arranged to provide an analysis of faults or usage over a plurality of electronic devices.

76. (Currently Amended) A method of interfacing as claimed in claim

41, wherein ~~the~~ said entity is given access to maintenance status information relating to one or more electronic devices to which it is not relevant.

77. (Currently Amended) A method of interfacing a plurality of electronic devices that from time to time require maintenance, comprising:

transmitting maintenance status information relating to at least one of a current need for maintenance and a potential future need for maintenance from an ~~the~~ electronic ~~devices~~ device to a central server, by at least one of direct communication and communication ~~directly or~~ via ~~one or more~~ at least one intermediary device; ~~devices;~~

in response to the maintenance status information transmitted from the electronic device, transmitting a message containing information based on said maintenance status information, to an entity relevant to [[a]] the ~~particular~~ electronic device, said message comprising a hypertext link; and

providing a web server that has access to at least the maintenance status information ~~relevant to~~ about the ~~particular~~ electronic device, said web server responding to the activation of the hypertext link to provide ~~the~~ said maintenance status information.

78. (Currently Amended) A method of interfacing ~~of interfacing~~ as claimed in claim 77, wherein one of the central server and [[or]] the web server comprises a means for analysing the received maintenance status information.

79. (Currently Amended) A method of interfacing as claimed in claim

78, wherein one of the central server and [[or]] the web server has access to a database for storing data, wherein maintenance status information received by the server is stored in the database.

80. (Original) A method of interfacing as claimed in claim 79, wherein the analysing means has access to data stored in the database.

81. (Currently Amended) A method of interfacing as claimed in claim 77, wherein the transmission of maintenance status information is initiated by one of the said electronic device and the at least one [[or]] intermediary device devices.